



School Cancellation Policy

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*

DATE: October 29, 2020

In the October 19, 2020 Commissioner's Update, News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), guidance was provided on snow days. It was stated that, the DESE's regulations for remote learning may include synchronous or asynchronous components, provided that students have opportunities to regularly interact with teachers, such as through feedback, office hours, and other regularly scheduled individual student interactions. Remote learning models must include the following components:

1. procedures for all students to participate in remote learning, including a system for tracking attendance and participation;
2. remote academic work shall be aligned to state standards;
3. a policy for issuing grades for students' remote academic work; and
4. teachers and administrators shall regularly communicate with students and their parents and guardians, including providing interpretation and translation services to limited English proficient parents and guardians.

Commissioner Riley has determined that for the 2020-2021 school year, if there are days when schools must close because of inclement weather or other emergencies, districts may choose whether to treat those days as "snow days" to be made up later or provide all students with remote learning on those days in a manner that is consistent with the regulatory requirements listed above.

Based on Commissioner Riley's October 19th guidance on snow days, on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, the School Committee approved adding "3. Full remote learning day" to the existing policy until June 30, 2021. The enclosed School Committee policy and regulations, "School Cancellation & 1 hour or 2 hour Delay", establish options for the Superintendent to exercise when weather conditions dictate a change.

EBCD-R-2 - SCHOOL CANCELLATION & 1 HOUR OR 2 HOUR DELAY

The Superintendent will exercise one of the following options when weather conditions dictate a change in the normal opening of the school day:

1. Cancellation of school
2. Delay of 1 hour or 2 hours in the opening of school
3. Full remote learning day (added to policy until June 30, 2021)

If a delay is in effect, AM Preschool classes, PM Preschool classes, and AM "before school" programs will be cancelled and breakfast will not be served.

If there is a delay in the opening of school, all procedures now in place will be delayed by either one hour or two hours.

1. Reporting time of pupils is delayed by the 60 or 120 minutes.
2. Pick-up time of all bus routes is delayed by the 60 or 120 minutes.

Example: If a bus normally picks up a child at 7:15 AM

- * In a one-hour delay the pick-up time would be 8:15 AM
- * In a two-hour delay the pick-up time would be 9:15 AM

3. All Principals, Unit B Administrators, Teachers, Clerks, and Paraprofessionals will report to their stations fifteen (15) minutes prior to the delayed opening time of school (first bell - as presently in practice).

4. All, Custodians and Cafeteria Workers will report to their assigned positions at regular time.

Announcements of no school or a delay in the opening of school will be announced on the following radio stations and TV channels:

Radio Stations: WCAP (980 AM); WBZ (1030AM);

TV Channels: 4, 5, 7, Fox 25

Website: www.lowell.k12.ma.us

To keep lines clear for emergencies, the Police and Fire Departments have asked that students and parents refrain from calling them to make inquiries as to the status of school.

A "CONNECT ED" phone message will also be sent to all homes for no school announcements as well as any other special announcements (early dismissal, etc.).